

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 11164

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MASS EG

SUBJ: USCINCEUR DESIRE ESTABLISH LIAISON OFFICE IN EGYPT

REF: CAIRO 10677

1. HAVE RECEIVED INFO COPY OF MESSAGE FROM USCINCEUR TO JCS AND DOD PROPOSING THAT, IN ORDER TO COORDINATE AND TIE TOGETHER INDIVIDUAL EFFORTS OF US C-130 SPECIALISTS, A USCINCEUR LIAISON OFFICE SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN EGYPT WITH RESPOSIBILITY FOR OVER-ALL PROGRAM COORDINATION. LIAISON OFFICE SHOULD BE MANNED BY THREE OFFICERS, SPECIFICALLY, A LT. COLONEL OPERATIONS/TRAINING OFFICER, A MAJOR SUPPLY/MAINTENANCE OFFICER AND ONE STAFF SERGEANT ADMIN--- ALL AIR FORCE. USCINCEUR WOULD LIKE TO ASSIGN SUCH PERSONNEL IN A PCS STATUS IN SUPPORT OF "PEACE PYRAMID" PROGRAM. HOWEVER, IN KEEPING WITH MY CONCERN ABOUT PERMANENT ASSIGNMENT OF DOD PERSONNEL TO EGYPT IN SUPPORT OF THAT PROGRAM, USCINCEUR SUGGESTS SUCH PERSONNEL BE ASSIGNED IN TDY STATUS WITH MID-OCTOBER ARRIVAL DATE. SCREENING PROCESS TO IDENTIFY TDY PERSONNEL SHOULD BE MADE WITH VIEW TO CHANGING THEIR STATUS FROM TDY TO PCS IF USG UNDERTAKES ADDITIONAL FOREIGN MILITARY SALES TO EGYPT IN CY-77. USCINCEUR SEEKS APPROVAL OF JCS AND SECDEF FOR SUCH A LIAISON OFFICE.

2. I ASSUME THAT AT SOME TIME DOD WILL DISCUSS

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USCINCEUR PROPOSAL WITH DEPT. IN REFTTEL, I ASKED DOD

TO CONSIDER VARIOUS OPTIONS TO HANDLE C-130 PROGRAM
SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS OTHER THAN PERMANENT ASSIGNMENT
OF PERSONNEL. LATTER HARDLY SEEMS NECESSARY, GIVEN
THE UNCERTAINTY OF WHETHER A MORE EXTENSIVE FMS PROGRAM
WILL DEVELOP FOR EGYPT IN FORSEEABLE FUTURE. ONE SUCH
ALTERNATIVE WAS TDY ARRANGEMENTS FOR WHATEVER REASONABLE
PERIOD SUCH PERSONNEL MIGHT BE NEEDED. THERE IS NO
REASON WHY THEY COULD NOT SHUTTLE, AS NEEDED, BETWEEN
VAIHINGEN AND CAIRO. SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT IS LIKELY TO
BE FAR LESS COSTLY THAN STATIONING PERSONNEL HERE FOR
22 MONTHS AS INITIALLY PROPOSED. IF CINCEUR PROPOSAL
WHEN PRESENTED TO SATE IS CONSISTENT WITH THIS CONCEPT,
IT WOULD SEEM TO BE REASONABLE. IF NOT, I WOULD LIKE
OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON IT. I WANT C-130 PROGRAM TO GO
WELL, BUT AM NOT RPT NOT PERSUADED THAT THIS OBJECTIVE
REQUIRES THREE FULL-TIME PEOPLE TO BE HERE ON PCS BASIS.
FOR THAT MATTER, I DOUBT THAT SUPPORTING THE C-130'S
INVOLVES FULL-TIME, ALL-YEAR-AROUND WORKLOAD FOR THREE
SUCH PEOPLE.

3. SHOULD AN EXPANDED FMS PROGRAM FOR EGYPT DEVELOP
IN THE NEXT YEAR, WE WILL OF COURSE HAVE TO CONSIDER
AT THAT TIME WHETHER A PERMANENT OFFICE IS NECESSARY
TO SUPPORT ANY SUCH PROGRAM AND, IF SO, OPTIMUM
STAFFING FOR SUCH AN OFFICE.

4. I WILL APPRECIATE HEARING FROM DEPT RESULTS OF ANY
DISCUSSIONS WITH DOD ON THIS MATTER.
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